

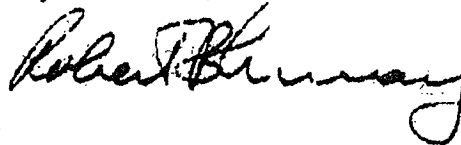
**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim 29 has been amended to specify that the laminated strip is referred to as being dimensionally stable. Support is found in paragraph [0010] of the specification where it states that "the thickness of the reinforcement layer should be appropriate to obtain a strip that is sufficiently dimensionally stable..." The strip with the reinforcement layer is thus the laminated strip. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding Office Action rejections. Early and favorable action is awaited. The Director is authorized to charge any fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,



By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert B. Murray  
Registration No. 22,980  
Attorney for Applicant  
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, PC  
Suite 800, 1425 K. Street  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 783-6040

RBM/GP